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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named  
Inventor : Jean L. Westby et al.

Appln. No. : 10/714,478

Filed : November 13, 2003

For : METHOD AND APPARATUS TO  
REDUCE SERIAL  
COMMUNICATIONS PATH  
CONNECTION OVERHEAD

Docket No.: S104.12-0060

Group Art Unit: 2116

Examiner: Thuan N. Du

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Express Mail No. EV464738934US  
Date of Deposit: March 1, 2005

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed February 1, 2005. Please amend the above-identified re-issue application as follows:

IN THE TITLE

Please amend the title as follows: [SYSTEM FOR REDUCING ARBITRATED-LOOP OVERHEAD BY MAINTAINING CONTROL OF A COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL AS LONG AS A PREDETERMINED AMOUNT OF DATA IS AVAILABLE WITHIN CONTROL OF CHANNEL NODE]

METHOD AND APPARATUS TO REDUCE SERIAL COMMUNICATIONS PATH CONNECTION OVERHEAD